

	Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center Policy Manual		Policy Number	1512
			Original Date	12/23/1996
	Department: Exposure Control Plan		Revised Date	03/01/2016
	Exposure Incident Evaluation and Follow-up			

POLICY:

Exposure Incidents

If a health care worker finds himself in a situation where there is a suspected infection exposure, he should wash the exposed area with soap and water and then immediately report to their supervisor. The supervisor will take immediate action to obtain medical attention for the worker from a physician. Evaluation of the situation and procedures for monitoring the worker will be established in accordance with related policies.

Evaluation and Follow-up

A potentially exposed employee shall be provided with a copy of this policy and a written explanation of the OSHA Rule (Attachment #1) relevant exposure evaluation and follow-up requirements and rights related to the handling of the incident prior to completion of the shift on which the incident is reported.

The Infection Control Nurse shall maintain copies accessible 24 hours a day of up-to-date exposure incident forms with all required information to meet this policy.

Prior to the end of the shift on which the incident occurs, the employee and the Infection Control Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Director of Nursing or Charge Nurse shall document the circumstances under which the potential exposure occurred using the format provided in the exposure incident package. The records should indicate, at a minimum, the nature of the exposure, protective equipment and work practices in effect at the time and post-exposure actions taken, the initials and medical record number of the source person or other information available to identify the source of the blood or material involved. The employee must acknowledge that he understands his rights and responsibilities for obtaining a confidential medical evaluation, and his intention including the anticipated source of qualified medical evaluation.

NOTE: This element is required within two workdays of the incident.

Exposure Incident Evaluation and Follow-up

The Infection Control Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Director of Nursing or Charge Nurse shall contact the source person/responsible party and coordinate efforts to obtain consent for and specimens for determining the health status of the source person if it is not already known by other diagnosis. Upon determination, if legally obtainable, the information shall be provided to the employee's evaluating health care professional and to the employee who shall be first advised of their legal responsibility for protecting the confidentiality of the source person's status.

A copy of all relevant information related to the incident shall be provided to the employee with the recommendation that they provide the information to their physician.

The Infection Control Nurse , Nursing Supervisor, Director of Nursing, or Charge Nurse shall within 15 days of the completion of the evaluation, obtain the evaluating professional's written opinion regarding the need for action taken related to HBV vaccination. It will include a statement that the employee has been informed of the results of the evaluation and told about medical conditions resulting from the exposure. This written opinion shall be maintained in the employee's medical work record and a copy shall be given to the employee.